

**FIRST 5 COMMISSION OF SAN DIEGO
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**County Administration Building
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302-303
San Diego, CA 92101**

Commissioners Present:

Greg Cox, Chairman
Dr. Nora Faine
Jean Shepard
Dr. Nancy Bowen

Commissioner Absent:

Ken Colling

Staff Present:

Laura Spiegel, Executive Director
Denis McGee
Grace Young
Kim Frink
Susan Morgan
Rick Collantes
Lynda Mills
Rosa Lemus
David Smith, Sr. Deputy County Counsel
Patty Kay Danon, District 1

Minutes for December 15, 2003

1. Call to Order

Chairman Cox called the meeting of the First 5 Commission of San Diego to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Opportunity for Public Comments

No public comments were received

3. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes - October 13, 2003

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission approved the minutes of October 13, 2003.

AYES: Cox, Faine, Bowen

ABSENT: Colling

ABSTAIN: Shepard

NOES: None

4. Formation of Consent Calendar

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Shepard, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission approved the formation of the Consent Calendar, with Items 8, 9, 10, and 12 being pulled by the public. Item 13 was a presentation. There were no items pulled by Commissioners. The remaining items were approved per staff recommendation.

AYES: Cox, Faine, Shepard, Bowen

ABSENT: Colling

ABSTAIN: None

NOES: None

5. Public Hearing - First 5 Commission of California Annual Report

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Shepard, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission approved the CCFC Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2002-2003 and authorized the Executive Director to submit the Annual Report to the State, on Consent.

AYES: Cox, Faine, Shepard, Bowen
ABSENT: Colling
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

6. Access to Health Care - Contract Award

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Shepard, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission found that the proposed contract activities are consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, further the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provide a public benefit; received and approved the slate of recommendations from the Source Selection Committee for the contract awards; and authorized the Executive Director or, as appropriate, the Program and Operations Manager to negotiate and execute contract documents for the approved awardees, on Consent.

AYES: Cox, Faine, Shepard, Bowen
ABSENT: Colling
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

7. Capacity Building Through Intergenerational Approaches - Contract Award

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Shepard, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission found that the proposed contract activities are consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, further the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provide a public benefit; received and approved the slate of recommendations from the Source Selection Committee from the contract awards; and authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute contract documents for the approved awardees, on Consent.

AYES: Cox, Faine, Shepard, Bowen
ABSENT: Colling
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

8. Children's Hospital Proposal

Blair Sadler, President and CEO of Children's Hospital addressed the Commission. He mentioned that Children's Hospital treats 78% of San Diego's children under the age of five, in which they see on a daily basis about 100 children zero to five visit the emergency department; 24 children zero to five visit the satellite urgent care location; 26 children zero to five have surgery, majority of which are complicated operations, and 29 children zero to five visit the outpatient clinics. He acknowledged that \$25 million is a very large sum of money but it would allow them to help 80 thousand children in the emergency department, and triple their orthopedic rooms to allow them to see 51 orthopedic visits. He recognized that there is a Request for Proposal for capital improvements funding process and would be happy to be part of the competitive process as well.

Dr. Buzz Kaufman, pediatrician from Children's Hospital stated that Children's Hospital has the busiest operating room of any Children's Hospital in California. They see more than 18,000 cases a year and have only eight operating rooms in which only 2 can accommodate the major cases such as neurology, oral surgery, orthopedics and cardiac. He mentioned that 1,500 major cases were squeezed last year into the two major rooms and last December they had to cancel more than 80 surgeries, some of which were re-scheduled. In addition, the emergency department is overcrowded. They have people sitting in the parking lot waiting to be seen as a result of influenza and other epidemic illness, which shows how Children's Hospital has overgrown and needs to increase its size in order to accommodate the community needs.

Sue Cox, a nurse from Children's Hospital mentioned that many of the constraints that Children's has impact both the parents and their families and also the nurses and the doctors in the emergency department. She stated that parents get frustrated waiting in the emergency department and see people go ahead of them because the children are sicker. In addition, the nurses and doctors feel very stressed to deal with families who are not only anxious and stressed but are getting angrier as the hours go on. The doctors and nurses would really appreciate anything the Commission can do to help them decompress the emergency department.

Barbara Ryan, from Children's Hospital mentioned that Children's Hospital plays an important part in terms of child's health. She acknowledged that the Commission has a recommendation to award a contract for Access to Health Care and stated that it would not do a lot of good having every child insured if there were no places to treat those children. She felt that every delay limits a child's development and their opportunity to be able to learn and it would be beneficial for the Commission to establish a process for organizations to request money for capital funding.

Betty Bassoff, children's advocate and health and human services consultant addressed the Commission. After hearing what was said earlier, she felt that the request for Children's Hospital should not be approved at this time, but should be delayed until the selection processes as recommended can be worked out and other agencies have an opportunity to compete. She raised five important issues: 1) All Prop 10 funds in San Diego have specifically been designated for 0 to 5 year olds, regardless of what other ages have been served by agencies competing for funds; 2) the commission staff created a policy for the contentious issue of funding "unsolicited grants," funding is limited to \$75,000; 3) many organizations are in great budgetary distress and need help to remain afloat. Bricks and mortar seem irrelevant at this time; 4) the strategic plan's goal of School Readiness is the Preschool for All campaign burgeoning across the county and in California. San Diego has yet to make a commitment where other counties have allocated millions of dollars, and 5) tensions have been created by competition between the health agencies and the community-based organizations. Health usually wins out as seen by the composition of the Commission and of TPAC, and by a review of funds allocated.

Sue Braun, from the School Readiness Committee expressed her admiration for Blair Sadler and Barbara Ryan and agreed that there is a connection between health and learning. However, although she felt that Children's Hospital needs the funding, that funding should come from another source. Ms. Braun would like the Commission to consider what the voters wanted when they voted for Proposition 10.

Mary Grillo, Executive Director of SEIU local 2028 supports the investment in our children's health and future and believed that a commitment needs to be made across the border. A new facility or improved facilities are only as good as the staff that provides the care. Everyone wants to ensure that Children's Hospital is a special place for our children. Children's Hospital on the other hand should figure out a way to ensure that the employees getting care of those children also have a voice.

Candace Mendoza, Child development consultant talked about the process and the planning in which funds are released. She would like the Commission to look at other alternatives and consider sending this back to TPAC, School Readiness Leadership Team and the Finance Committee to work closely together to come out with some other valuable recommendations that would take in consideration school readiness, the acquisition of facilities and the cost of such efforts.

Lois Pastore, a professional in Early Childhood Special Education and a member of the Planning Council addressed the Commission. She asked the Commission to study carefully the Preschool for All issue that is gaining momentum and to consider how the reserve funds might be used to support schools as well as early care and education providers in the community. She would like the Commission to address the issue of school readiness for all children in San Diego utilizing the funds for capital improvement.

Sylvia Selverstone, from San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council shared her concerns regarding the Commission's process for funding. She stated that a study in which unmet health needs for children 0 to 5 are to be identified is scheduled to be completed by March 2004, and it appears premature to award significant amount of funding for health services prior to the completion of the study and out side the perimeters of the strategic plan the Commission adopted. She mentioned that the Commission has established practice of refusing request for capital improvements unless the request is tie to funded projects and capital improvement expenditures is not been in excess of \$75,000 per project. She felt that if this process is to be revised, significant community input should be obtained before decision of this magnitude is finalized.

Michelle Soltero, Regional trainer for West Ed, The Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers acknowledged that Children's Hospital is important to the community. However, there are wonderful programs that provide services for children 0 to 5 and their families that could also benefit from the funding that is available to the community. She stated that If the strategic plan were to be changed, she would like to see more community input and also provide a fair and equal process for all non-profit organizations to apply for these funds.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Cox, seconded by Commissioner Shepard, the Commission encouraged Children's Hospital to re-submit its proposal, once the competitive process has been established.

AYES:	Cox, Faine, Shepard, Bowen
ABSENT:	Colling
ABSTAIN:	None
NOES:	None

9. Capital Funding Program

Chairman Cox stated that the First 5 Commission of San Diego has made an extraordinary job in developing and implementing the strategic plan to ensure that funds are used to assist children in being physically, mentally, emotionally and developmentally ready to learn. This year the Commission has discovered that there is more money in the sustainability reserve. He believes that the additional money should go out to the community to meet the infrastructure needs of organizations serving children 0 to 5. Michael Carr, Chairman of the Commissions Finance Committee informed the Commission that the Finance Committee at its first meeting on December 4, 2003 discussed several budget options. He stated that the Finance Committee advised strongly not to spend all available resources during the first years because there were assumptions not taken into account. He asked the Commission to find out the birth rate projections from SANDAG since San Diego County receives money based on birth rate.

Ahmed Calvo, Medical Director of San Ysidro Health Center informed the Commission that they are in process of developing an Early Childhood Developing Center in South Bay and mentioned that San Ysidro Health Center would be pleased to have the opportunity to apply for capital funds in the competitive process. He supports the inclusion of community health centers as applicants.

Joyce Clark, Program manager with the Exceptional Family Resource Center recommended that the Commission use any funds available from the commission's sustaining reserves to fund existing successful projects. She encouraged the Commission to review and evaluate existing projects and continue to fund these projects using the current strategic plan rather than fund new programs.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Cox, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Commission approved Chairman Cox's recommendations as follows:

- 1. Appropriate \$60 million from the Sustaining Reserve for one-time *urgent* capital improvement contracts.**
- 2. Direct staff to return to the Commission at the January 2004 Commission meeting with a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for a capital improvements funding process. The draft RFP should include the following:**
 - a) the criteria by which applicants will be judged for an award, including a requirement that an applicant demonstrate that the proposal is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan;**
 - b) a requirement that the applicants demonstrate adequate financial viability and organizational stability to be considered for capital improvement funding, including a description of what will be considered in determining an applicant's financial viability and organizational stability;**
 - c) the method by which the Commission will secure the funds to insure that the funds are used for the identified purpose;**
 - d) the method by which the Commission will distribute funds to the awardees, including the time in which funds will be distributed and used, and how interest accrued on dedicated funds will be allocated;**
 - e) the criteria for determining whether the applicants adequately demonstrate that the funds will be used for children zero to five; and**
 - f) any additional requirements staff determine to be necessary for inclusion in the RFP.**

AYES:	Cox, Faine, Shepard, Bowen
ABSENT:	Colling
ABSTAIN:	None
NOES:	None

10. Funding Priority Proposal

Commission staff Frink informed the Commission that TPAC supported the Oral Health Initiative and stressed the importance of obtaining community input in developing funding strategies. On December 8, 2003, Commission staff hosted a meeting in which 27 oral health providers attended. Their top priorities for improving children's oral health were: 1) fluoridation and primary prevention; 2) direct patient care (including care coordination; 3) increased capacity – providers, mobile vans, clinics; and 4) public and parent education geared towards primary prevention. She mentioned that Commission staff is recommending that First 5 funding focus on direct patient care, increased capacity and public education.

John McDonald, CEO from San Ysidro Health Center informed the Commission that mobile clinics work together with Head Start programs and preschools. They have seen about 12,000 children in the last 2 years in which 50% of those children had significant oral health problems and 25% needed specialty care.

Susan Lovelace, Executive Director of the San Diego Dental Society talked about the priority areas set by the Dental Health Coalition through community-wide forums. She thanked the First 5 Commission for recognizing the importance of oral health, and recognizing that cavities are the number one childhood disease in America. She looks forward to working together to address the dental health needs of children in San Diego.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Shepard, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Commission found that the proposed strategies are consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, further the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provide a public benefit; authorized the Commission Executive Director or, as appropriate, the Program and Operations Manager, to negotiate and execute one-year grant extensions of the eight contracts funded under RFGA 20055 at a cost not to exceed \$2,850,000; authorized the Executive Director or, as appropriate, the Program and Operations Manager, to work with the Director of the County of San Diego Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for up to \$780,000 over two years to develop and implement a coordinated countywide public education campaign to promote preventive and regular oral health and primary health care and to encourage parents to enroll their children in health insurance; authorized the Executive Director or, as appropriate, the Program and Operations Manager, to work with the Director of the County of San Diego Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for up to \$4.2 million to support:

- 1. oral health screening of children ages infancy to 5 coupled with parent education;**
- 2. oral health treatment for uninsured children can include care coordination and provider incentives; and**
- 3. increased capacity through new or expanded direct service facilities and equipment, including the integration of oral health care services with primary health services.**
- 5. Authorize the Executive Director or, as appropriate, the Program and Operations Manager, to negotiate and award contracts with the organizations recommended for award by the Source Selection Committee, on Consent.**

AYES:	Cox, Faine, Shepard, Bowen
ABSENT:	Colling
ABSTAIN:	None
NOES:	None

11. Capacity Building Through Intergenerational Approaches –Program Administration

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Shepard, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to spend up to \$314,900 over three years to market, recruit and administer the Capacity Building Through Intergenerational Approaches initiative and to co-host an intergenerational launch and training event, on Consent.

AYES: Cox, Faine, Shepard, Bowen
ABSENT: Colling
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

12. Definition of Zero to Five

Executive Director Spiegel thanked the grantees and David Smith from County Counsel for providing input regarding the definition of zero to five. She stated that because the intent of the law is to serve children who have not yet entered kindergarten, the Commission is recommending that the following eligibility definition be used: "A child shall be deemed eligible to receive Commission-funded services until entry into kindergarten or until the child reaches his/her sixth birthday, whichever occurs first." Thus if a child is five years old, but has not yet entered elementary school (kindergarten or first grade), he/she is still eligible for First 5-funded services". The Commission is also recommending that programs funded under the prior definition of 0-5 be allowed the option of operating using the new definition. Current grantees and contractors will not be required to use the new definition and if they choose to operate under the new definition, they will not receive additional funding.

Nancy Cohen, program coordinator of Children's Care Connection (C3) commented that C3 received numerous phone calls from parents, childcare providers and physicians requesting screening and enrichment classes for children over 5 who have not yet entered kindergarten. Under the current definition, C3 had to turn these children away due to age constraints. With the new definition, more children will benefit from the developmental and behavioral screenings and classes provided by C3.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Faine, seconded by Commissioner Shepard, the Commission approved the following definition of zero to five: A child shall be deemed eligible to receive Commission-funded services until entry into kindergarten or until the child reaches his/her sixth birthday, whichever occurs first.

AYES: Cox, Faine, Shepard, Bowen
ABSENT: Colling
ABSTAIN: None

13. Literacy Training for Library Staff Presentation

Lynda Mills, Literacy Coordinator for the Commission staff and Meg Schofield from San Diego READS, gave a presentation about the Early Literacy Training for Library Staff program funded by the Commission.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission found that the proposed strategies are consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, further the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provide a public benefit; and authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract with Meg Schofield to implement the following strategies: 1) additional training sessions for librarians; 2) development and delivery of two additional curriculum modules; and 3) development of a "plug and play" version of the training.

AYES: Cox, Faine, Shepard, Bowen
ABSENT: Colling
ABSTAIN: None

14. 2003 Annual Report to the Community

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Shepard, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission approved the 2003 Annual Report to the Community, on Consent.

AYES: Cox, Faine, Shepard, Bowen
ABSENT: Colling
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

15. TPAC Report

The Commission received the report of the November 17, 2003 and December 1, 2003 TPAC meeting, on Consent.

16. State/Staff Report

The Commission received the State/Staff Report, on Consent. No action was taken on this item as it was for information purposes only.

17. Commission Updates

The Commission received the calendar of community engagement activities for December 2003 and January 2004, and an update summary listing of relevant bills introduced into the 2002 and 2003 legislative sessions, on Consent. No action was taken on this item as it was for information purposes only.

18. Future Agenda Items

Items to be discussed at the next Commission meeting include, among other things:

- Capital Funding Program
- TPAC Redesign Committee Recommendations
- Planning Studies Report
- Independent Evaluator Plan
- Statewide Family Support and FRC Effort
- State opportunity for Healthcare Access
- Child Welfare Services (CWS) Redesign

19. Adjournment

Chairman Cox commented that his last Commission meeting will be on January 26, 2004 and mentioned that Dianne Jacob from the Board of Supervisors will be the new Chairwoman. He acknowledged the appointment of Dr. George Cameron of the National School District as the new at-large member to replace Ken Colling.

Chairman Cox adjourned the meeting of the Commission at 2:51 p.m. to reconvene on January 26, 2004.

Notes by Lemus

Respectfully submitted for your review and approval:

Dr. Nora Faine, Secretary

Date